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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,647	10/28/2003	Todd D. Nelson	21128	4008
210	7590	02/01/2005		
MERCK AND CO., INC			EXAMINER	
P O BOX 2000			HABTE, KAH SAY	
RAHWAY, NJ 07065-0907			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1624	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/694,647	NELSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.	1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-21 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received:
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
- I. Claims 1-4 and 9-14, drawn to fused 1,4-oxazines and method of making, classified in class 540, subclass 476 and 593 and in class 544, subclass 105.
 - II. Claims 5-8 (in part) and 21 (in part), drawn to azepines and azecines (7-, or 8-membered ring with one N, m = 4 and m = 5), classified in class 540, subclass 450 and 484.
 - III. Claims 5-8 (in part) and 21 (in part), drawn to piperidines (6-membered ring with one N, m = 3), classified in class 546, subclass 245.
 - IV. Claims 5-8 (in part) and 21 (in part), drawn to pyrrolidines (4-, or 5-membered ring with one N, m = 1 and m = 2), classified in class 548, subclass 530 and 953.
 - V. Claims 15-20, drawn to a coupling process for making compound of formula V (m = 1-5), classified in class 540, 544, 546 and 548, subclass various.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I-IV are directed to structurally dissimilar compounds such that the variable core created by the varying definitions of m in the compound formula I or the nature of the

ring (e.g. bicyclic or monocyclic) do not belong to the same recognized class of chemical compounds in the art, and references anticipating one invention, would not render obvious the others. Group I (bicyclic lactone) is different from Groups II-V, since it is drawn to fused 1,4-oxazines and process of making. Groups II-V are different from Group I, since they are drawn to monocyclic rings (no lactone in their core structure). Group II is drawn to a 7-, or 8-membered ring with one N and is different from Group I or Groups III-V, since this core structure is not present in other groups. Group III is different from Groups I-II and IV-V, since it is drawn to piperidines (6-membered ring with one N). Group IV is different from Groups I-III and V, since it is drawn to a 4-, or 5-membered ring with one N. Thus, separate searches in the literature as well as in the U.S. Patent Classification System would be required. Each group's compounds are made and used independently of each other and could support separate patents. The compounds differ significantly in chemical structures. One skilled in the art would not consider such diverse structure equivalents of each other.

Inventions I and V are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as a starting material for making esters attached to a 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-membered ring with one nitrogen (e.g. R-O-CO-pyrrolidine) or it can be used as ketoamide precursor (see allowed copending application 10/695,048) and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is

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nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

A telephone call was made to Mr. Richard Parr on Jan. 12, 2005 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

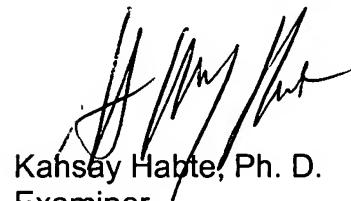
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kahsay Habte, Ph. D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0667. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9.00AM- 5:30PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mukund Shah can be reached on (571) 272-0674, if there is no reply within 24 hours, James Wilson (Acting SPE) can be reached at (571) 272-0661. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kahsay Habte, Ph. D.
Examiner
Art Unit 1624

KH
January 27, 2005